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LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraqi airspace by United States aircraft for purposes of reconnaissance and provocation and in order to drop heat flares on certain areas continued during the period 9 to 16 March 1993, as follows:

9 March 1993

(a) Northern region: 28 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 7,000 to 8,500 metres, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 34 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 7,000 to 9,000 metres, centred over Basra, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Samawah, Salman, Qal'at Salih, Ushbayjah and Busayyah.

At 1000 hours on 9 March 1993, hostile United States aircraft dropped 30 heat flares on the area near Nasiriyah in the southern region.

10 March 1993

(a) Northern region: 30 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 8,000 metres, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 40 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 3,500 to 11,000 metres, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Amarah, Qurnah, Khidr and Busayyah.

11 March 1993

(a) Northern region: 27 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 4,500 to 7,000 metres, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Dohuk and Zakho.

(b) Southern region: 24 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 10,000 metres, centred

over Qurhan, Nasiriyah, Busayyah, Khidr, Halibah, Artawi, Samawah, Lataf, Ushbayjah and Qal'at Salih.

At 1357 hours on 11 March 1993, a TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 18,000 metres penetrated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. It left at 1445 hours.

12 March 1993

(a) Northern region: 18 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 5,000 to 7,500 metres, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 46 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 7,000 to 8,000 metres, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amadiyah, Salman, Jalibah, Basra, Ushbayjah and Busayyah.

At 1025 hours on 12 March 1993, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier at an altitude of 7,000 metres over Mosul.

13 March 1993

(a) Northern region: No hostile activity was recorded in the northern region on this day.

(b) Southern region: 57 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Amarah, Lasaf and Busayyah.

At 1315 hours on 13 March 1993, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at 600 kilometres per hour and flying at an altitude of 20,000 metres penetrated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. It left at 1400 hours.

14 March 1993

(a) Northern region: 26 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 8,500 metres, centred over Ayn Zalah, Zakho, Dohuk, Mosul, Irbil and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 40 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 7,000 to 8,000 metres, centred over Busayyah, Artawi, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah and Qal'at Salih.

At 1400 hours on 14 March 1993, a hostile two-aircraft formation broke the sound barrier at an altitude of 7,000 metres over the Nasiriyah area.

15 March 1993

(a) Northern region: 32 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 5,500 to 8,000 metres, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 34 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 7,000 to 9,000 metres, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Shatrah, Artawi and Busayyah.

16 March 1993

(a) Northern region: 32 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 8,000 metres, centred over Mosul, Dohuk, Irbil, Tall Afar, Zakho, Dukan and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 39 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 7,000 to 9,000 metres, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Ushbayjah, Jalibah and Busayyah.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative